

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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a)* 1. An image input device for picking up images of a plurality of subjects by switching of an image pickup direction, said image input device comprising:

image pickup means for picking up an image of a subject and for outputting an image signal corresponding to the picked-up image;

image pickup direction switching means for switching the image pickup direction of said image pickup means;

first detection means for detecting an angle of the image pickup direction; and

storage means for storing the image signal according to the detected angle.

20 2. An image input device according to claim 1, wherein said first detection means includes second detection means for finding that the image pickup direction is fixed, and said storage means stores the image signal according to the detection result of said second detection means.

3. An image input device according to claim 1, further comprising:

25 driving means for changing the image pickup direction of said image pickup means,

wherein said storage means stores the image signal according to a signal for driving said driving means.

5 4. An image input device according to claim 1 or 3, wherein said storage means stores the image signal when the image pickup direction of said image pickup means is switched from a direction for picking up an image of a document to a direction for picking up an image of a person.

5 5. An image input device according to claim 4, further comprising:

5 control means for controlling said storage means to output the stored image signal when said image pickup means is shifted from the document image pickup direction to the person image pickup direction.

20 6. An image input device according to claim 1, wherein said storage means has at least more than two areas for storing an image signal, and said image input device further comprises:

25 control means for switching between said at least more than two storage areas for storing the image signal according to the angle detected by said first detection means.

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a3* 7. An image input device capable of picking up images of a plurality of subjects by switching an image pickup direction, said image input device comprising:

a mount table for laying a subject thereon;

5 image pickup means for picking up an image of said subject and for outputting an image signal corresponding to the picked-up image;

image pickup direction switching means for switching the image pickup direction of said image pickup means between a direction for picking up an image of said subject laid on said mount table and another direction;

storage means for storing the image signal output from said image pickup means; and

control means for controlling said storage means to store the image signal output from said image pickup means when the image pickup direction of said image pickup means is set at said direction for picking up an image of said subject.

20 8. An image input device according to claim 7, wherein said control means allows the image signal stored in said storage means to be output when the image pickup direction of said image pickup means is set at a direction for picking up an image of a subject other than said subject laid on
25 said mount table.

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9. An image input device according to claim 7, wherein said storage means has at least more than two storage areas for storing an image signal, and said image input device further comprises:

5 a switch for storing the image signal output from said image pickup means in said storage means; and
 assigning means for assigning a number to the image signal stored by said switch.

10. An image input method for picking up images of a plurality of subjects by switching an image pickup direction and outputting image signals corresponding to picked-up images of said subjects, said image input method comprising the steps of:

 detecting the angle of the image pickup direction; and
 storing the image signals according to the detected angle.

11. An image input method according to claim 10, wherein said image signals are stored when the image pickup direction is switched from a direction to pick up an image of a document to a direction to pick up an image of a person.

25 12. An image input method according to claim 11,

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